

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of using a shaped article to apply at least one ~~scaffold-forming~~skeleton-forming agent to an external skin and/or hair surface of a human or an animal, the method comprising:

- step (a) providing a molded, freeze-dried, shaped article having a volume of from approximately 0.1 cm^3 to approximately 6 cm^3 and a diameter of from approximately 3 mm to approximately 60 mm, wherein said shaped article comprises the at least one ~~scaffold-forming~~skeleton-forming agent but does not contain any protein-based ~~scaffold-forming~~skeleton-forming agents;
- step (b) contacting the shaped article with ~~water~~ an aqueous solution to form a solution or a gel; and
- step (c) applying the solution or the gel formed in the contacting step to the external skin and/or hair surface of the human or the animal.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~scaffold-forming~~skeleton-forming agent is at least one polysaccharide or a derivative thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~scaffold-forming~~skeleton-forming agent is sodium alginate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article exhibits a geometrical shape of a sphere prior to the contacting step.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b), the shaped article is contacted with an aqueous solution ~~comprising~~ comprising one or more selected from the group consisting of active substances and/or and auxiliary substances.

Claims 11-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~one or more aqueous solution comprises an active substances is~~ substance selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 10, wherein the ~~one or more auxiliary substances~~ substance is selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the shaped article further comprises ~~one or more~~ selected from the group consisting of active substances and/or and auxiliary substances.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein the ~~one or more shaped article comprises an active substances is~~ substance selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein the ~~one or more shaped article comprises an auxiliary substances is~~ substance selected from the group consisting of washing surfactants, dispersing agents, emulsifiers, fillers, pH-adjusting agents, buffering substances, stabilisers, co-solvents, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional dyestuffs, pharmaceutically and cosmetically conventional pigments, preservatives, plasticizers, lubricants and slip additives.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim ~~17~~ 1, wherein the ~~auxiliary substance is~~ shaped article further comprises squalane.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 17, wherein in step (b), the ~~shaped article is contacted with an aqueous solution comprising~~ comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of active substances and/or and auxiliary substances.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein the aqueous solution comprises one or more an active substance ~~substances in the aqueous solution~~ is selected from the group consisting of cosmetic active substances and pharmaceutical active substances.